



WARE

Ware's name is derived from the Indian word "Nenamesek," the original name of the Ware River, which means fishing weir (basket). In 1742, the Ware River Precinct was established, which formed the basis for the establishment of the Town of Ware. Saw and grist mills were established at the falls on the Ware River in the early 1700's and grew slowly in number and variety. The mills steadily drew people from surrounding towns and Ware soon became one of the first "mill" towns, which had the majority of its economic base in manufacturing rather than agriculture.

Ware is a commercial and financial center for Ware's neighboring communities in Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester Counties. The Baystate and Mary Lane Hospitals provide medical services in the area.

Although the textile mills are gone, the mill buildings and accompanying neighborhoods give downtown Ware its architectural character. A number of the buildings have been converted to small manufacturing and retail spaces. Today, Services and Wholesale & Retail Trade have far surpassed Manufacturing in employment, with over 56% of the total employment in the town. The millyard is now occupied by a variety of uses including manufacturing, office, service, retail, and warehousing. Today's industries generally need modern spaces with upgraded utilities, which the millyard cannot provide. A large shopping center now exists on Route 32 near the Palmer town line, and services residents from all of the surrounding communities. Finally, Ware has recently created a new zoning district on Route 32 and the rail line to encourage new industrial growth.

Ware borders the Quabbin Reservoir, one of the largest man-made reservoirs in the nation and is home to Beaver Lake which has a growing residential community.

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Profiles covering all forty-three communities in the Pioneer Valley Region and a range of other topics are available. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Regional Information Center provides demographic, economic, and geographic data and services including mapping, research, and analysis to its constituent communities and to the public. Contact the Information Center for additional information.

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Type of Government:
Open Town Meeting, 5 Selectmen, Town Manager.

Transit System:

Public Carrier Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

Private Carrier None

Para-Transit Carrier Council on Aging, PVTA

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Town Hall
126 Main St.
Ware, MA 01082
Phone: (413) 967-9648
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www.townofware.com

LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acres	25,459
Square Miles	40
2012	
Vehicle Registrations <i>(autos and light trucks)</i>	9,643
2015	
Property Tax Rates	
Residential	\$19.65
Commercial/Industrial	\$19.65

POPULATION TRENDS

1970	8,187
2014	8,953
1990	9,808
2000	9,715
2010	9,872
2014	9,886
2014 Race and Latino Population	
White	96.8%
Black	0.2%
Asian	0.3%
Other	2.7%
Latino (of any race)	2.1%

Note: Race %s can be greater than 100% because of multiple race persons.

Percent of Population by Age

Age	1990	2000	2010
0 - 4	7.6	6.1	6.2
5 - 9	7.5	6.6	6.1
10 - 14	6.0	7.4	5.8
15 - 19	6.5	7.1	6.1
20 - 24	6.8	5.6	5.6
25 - 34	17.6	12.9	12.2
35 - 44	13.9	16.4	13.4
45 - 54	9.7	14.1	16.6
55 - 59	4.0	5.1	7.2
60 - 64	4.4	3.6	6.2
65 - 74	9.6	6.8	7.8
75 & over	6.5	8.3	7.0

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles	40
Total Road Miles	2009 118

Land Use	Acres
Residential	2,121
Commercial	139
Industrial	122
Urban Open/Public	201
Transportation	52
Outdoor Recreational	117
Agricultural Land	1,307
Undeveloped Land	17,637
Water	3,859

RECREATION AREAS

PARKS: Grenville Park, Quabbin Watershed and Reservoir, Snows Pond, Barnes Street/Pumping Station Grounds, William Dearden Memorial Field, Town Forest.

GOLF COURSES: None

CLUBS: None

SPECIAL: Reed Swimming Pool.

Data Sources: Massachusetts Department of Revenue; Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development; Massachusetts Department of Education; United States Census Bureau; The Warren Group; Resource Mapping; University of Massachusetts; Applied Geographic Solutions; Local Municipal Offices

EMPLOYERS and EMPLOYMENT 2014

Industry	Number	Percent of Community Total
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	0	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	248	9.5%
Construction	70	2.7%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	72	2.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	458	17.5%
Information	14	0.5%
Manufacturing	309	11.8%
Services	564	21.6%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	47	1.8%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	835	31.9%
<i>Note: Above does not include self-employed, where many work in the agriculture, construction and service industries.</i>		
Average Weekly Wage	\$755	
Self-employed (includes all business types)	412	

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

32.6%	work in Ware
67.4%	commute out of Ware

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	109	\$130,000
2011	109	\$115,000
2012	122	\$124,750
2013	97	\$142,000
2014	112	\$151,750

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older *

2013

Less than 12 years	9.2%
4 years High School	40.6%
Less than 4 years College	29.6%
4 or more years College	20.8%

*Expressed as the highest level attained.

District	Grades	Integrated Per Pupil Cost 2013
Ware	PK-12	\$12,537
Pathfinder	9-12	\$20,239
Vocational		

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	5,371	5.9%
2005	5,363	5.4%
2006	5,403	5.7%
2007	5,403	5.8%
2008	5,333	6.4%
2009	5,270	9.5%
2010	5,273	9.9%
2011	5,201	8.9%
2012	5,192	8.3%
2013	5,187	8.4%
2014	5,245	7.3%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	8.0%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	8.5%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7.6%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10.2%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	16.0%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.4%
\$75,000 & over	31.2%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$49,630

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 14.9%